

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

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R 301040Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4484

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3711

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF NOVEMBER 29 KM 101 TALKS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH USINTOFF NOVEMBER 29, TAHSIN BESHIR, GHORBAL'S PROBABLY SUCCESSOR IN THE PRESIDENCY, STATED THAT TALKS HELD AT KM. 101 BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS HAD BEEN NEGATIVE. HE DESCRIBED ISRAELI POSITION AS A REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS TAKEN BY GOI REGARDING QUESTION OF DISENGAGEMENT. BESHIR SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ENGAGED FROM LATE AFTERNOON UNTIL EVENING HOURS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NOW THAT KM. 101 TALKS HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE ANYTHING FROM ISRAELIS. BESHIR DID NOT INDICATE WHAT FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION GOE WAS CONTEMPLATING, BUT SAID THAT KM 101 TALKS WOULD INEVITABLY AFFECT POSITION OF GOE IN PEACE CONFERENCE. BESHIR ADDED THAT YAARIV'S FLAG CEREMONY FOR ISRAELI DEAD, INTERRUPTING TALKS, HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN FOR ISRAELI TV, BUT COULD NOT HELP APPEARING TO EGYPTIANS

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LIKE SLAP IN THE FACE.

2. AMERICAN JOURNALIST SOURCE AT KM 101 NOVEMBER 29 HAS CONFIRMED THAT ATMOSPHERE OF YESTERDAY'S TALKS WAS QUITE NEGATIVE. BEFORE CONVERSATIONS HAD BEGUN, ARTILLERY FIRE BROKE OUT IN NEAR VICINITY, CREATING SOMEWHAT OF A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE AND DELAYING BEGINNING OF YAARIV/GAMASY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. CONVERSATIONS WERE FURTHER DELAYED BY YAARIV FLAG CEREMONY. UN, WITH ASSISTANCE OF IDF AND EGYPTIAN ARMY LIAISON OFFICERS, WAS UNABLE TO PUT A STOP TO FIRING, WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL TALKS WERE BROKEN OFF. CORRESPONDENT STATES THAT SHORTLY AFTER TERMINATION OF TALKS, ISRAELIS BROUGHT UP TO KM 101 CHECKPOINT A NUMBER OF APC'S WITH TROOPS WHO IMMEDIATELY BEGAN LAYING MINES AND BUILDING FORTIFICATIONS SOME YARDS FROM KM 101 SITE.

3. ALL MORNING CAIRO NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THAT EGYPT HAS DECIDED TO STOP (ARABIC: "AWQAFA"--ALTHOUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE USES "SUSPEND") KM 101 TALKS AFTER FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS NOVEMBER 29, AND PROMINENTLY FEATURE STATEMENT BY GOE SPOKESMAN ANIS THAT TALKS WITNESSED ISRAELI REVERSAL ON PLANS TO IMPELMENT POINT 2 OF CEASEFIRE ACCORD. ANIS' STATEMENT ADDED THAT "EGYPT HOLDS ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS."

4. IT IS OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST THAT SOME EGYPTIANS, HAVING NOTED THAT KM 101 TALKS ARE FIRST OPEN AND DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS SINCE 1949, GO ON TO NOTE THEIR LACK OF PRODUCTIVITY.
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